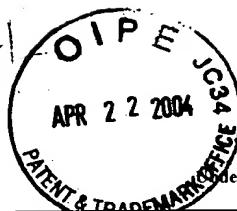


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Approved for use through xx/xx/xxxx. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

<i>Express Mail No</i>	EV335859597US
<i>Application Number</i>	09/122,427
<i>Filing Date</i>	July 24, 1998
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Zou et al.
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1615
<i>Examiner Name</i>	G. Kishore
<i>Attorney Docket No.</i>	8449-238

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11; 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered.)
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed _____
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other Petition for Extension of Time, Power of Attorney or Authorization of Agent

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months.
(Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed

- a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 503013:
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e), estimated to be \$ 385.00 (small entity)
 - ii. Extension of time fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17, estimated to be \$ _____ for a _____ month extension, the request for which is being made herewith
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Adriane M. Antler		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	32,605
Signature		Date	April 22, 2004	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Mail Stop RCE, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or by facsimile transmitted to fax no. 1-703-_____ to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

Name (Print/Type)		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)
Signature		Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Mail Stop RCE, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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